

Skinner Butte Park

master plan

2001





SKINNER BUTTE PARK MASTER PLAN

City of Eugene
Parks and Open Space Division

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January 2002



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Skinner Butte Park Master Plan was developed and produced by the City of Eugene Parks Planning office. We would like to sincerely thank the hundreds of community members who gave their time and shared their ideas, without whom this would not have been possible. It is a testament to the strength of our community, and a demonstration of a long-term commitment to continually adapt, expand and improve Eugene's Parks and Open Space system.

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FOREWORD

Eugene Skinner didn't settle here because he was tired of looking. On the western toe of a steep, grassy knoll, a stone's throw from the region's mightiest river and overlooking a panorama of some of the most fertile land in the west, Skinner knew he'd found his place. He described the southern end of the Willamette Valley as a nest within the surrounding green hills. It was beautiful, and it suited him.

The fact that he settled here, then, is not particularly remarkable. What is most remarkable is that some of the land that he once roamed and farmed is still open to the public, more than 150 years later, in the center of the busy, modern city that has grown up around his cabin outpost. One hundred acres of parkland, a quarter mile of river bank, a butte and myriad forests and meadows now comprise one of the most valuable public land resources in the city of Eugene.

Skinner Butte Park is, essentially, at the heart of the city. It is appropriate that Eugene, often dubbed the "Emerald City", has a heart of green. Of course this, too, is no accident. The city has remained green only by the will and care of many generations of Eugene residents. It is in the honor of this tradition that we respectfully submit this body of work to preserve and reaffirm the value of this resource for the many generations to follow.

RAH

CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW & SUMMARY

Why a Master Plan?

Resource Without a Vision

Skinner Butte Park, as it exists today, has never been the subject of a comprehensive public involvement and planning process. Over 30 years ago, in 1969, the last major planning effort for Skinner Butte Park was undertaken. This was mainly a visioning process involving a city-wide request for ideas and suggestions for “what to do with the butte”. Unfortunately, the focus of this effort did not encompass the entire park, and the plan lacks the element of public consensus that we now consider essential. Some plans developed prior to 1969, including drawings from the 1920s and 1930s, show a broader vision that included more of the area now considered to be Skinner Butte Park, however they still lack analysis, public involvement and consensus. One result of an absence of shared vision is that the park begins to lose its identity. Without the strength of identity, the park is much less likely to capture the attention, or the resources, that it needs to serve the community.

Aging Facilities, Changing Environment

Why do we need a vision for a major metropolitan park? What are the consequences of not having a vision? A visit to Skinner Butte Park today will quickly tell the tale of an aging infrastructure and a rapidly changing environment. Many of the processes at work in Skinner Butte Park are understood well enough, but change happens slowly and the current condition, although degraded, becomes the accepted norm.

While it is true that most infrastructure may be repaired and replaced as necessary, a repair and replacement strategy does not take into consideration changing needs in the community, shifts in use patterns, or the slow attrition of interest and vitality. As the community changes and grows, therefore, so too must the park proactively transform to keep pace and provide for the community's recreational and psychological needs.

For the park's natural areas, however, the situation is more complex and urgent. Since Euro-Americans settled the region, the vegetation patterns in the park have traveled a course of irrevocable change. The forestation of native meadows, and most importantly the extremely rapid spread of invasive plants has forced us to make a decision about how these areas will be managed. It is clear that failure to make a decision will not only result in the homogenization and extinction of many native plant and animal species within the park, but will create a new set of issues to be addressed, such as public safety and maintenance. Clearly, some action is necessary. What is required, therefore, is a template for the degree to which this natural progression of events will be allowed to continue, to be halted, or to be reversed through restoration and reclamation.

From the pre-historic use of Skinner Butte by the Kalapuya Indians as a lookout and ceremonial area, to the contemporary popularity of hiking and birding, to the necessity of providing respite from the urban condition, the natural areas of

Skinner Butte Park are a meeting ground for one of the most ubiquitous conflicts of interest of modern times: humans and nature. Clearly, as the population of the region increases, this conflict is not likely to diminish in the near future. In addition to managing certain areas of the park for their inherent natural resource values, therefore, it is also logical that there must also be some basis, some vision for managing human use of the park.

The park and its natural areas cannot be separated, nor can they be ignored as having separate needs. Balancing the responsibility of providing for the needs of the public with protecting the aspects of the park that they most value becomes a key theme that a guiding vision must address.

Multiple Interests

Skinner Butte Park has been, and will continue to be, the subject of great public interest. The sheer diversity of habitats and experiences available in the park have attracted varied groups of people with different plans and goals. Without a clear vision for the park, reconciling diverse

Entrance sign in the east end of the park near the Campbell Senior Center



interests is likely to be accomplished through temporary measures and compromises based on the needs and desires of certain individuals and groups. In all fairness to the parties involved, decisions to resolve such competing interests are best made based on solid, publicly-supported criteria.

More importantly, perhaps, is the long-term effect of having no clear vision. Since any given proposal may affect the park profoundly for many years, it is essential for the review process to be based on a good, clear knowledge of the park's greatest values, and how a particular proposal will impact these values.

Bond Measure Funding

The 1998 Parks and Open Space bond measure, on the recommendation of the bond measure committee, proposed the construction of a softball field and sand volleyball areas in the currently undeveloped west end of Skinner Butte Park. At the same time, a group of Whiteaker area residents had begun to form a grass-roots proposal to develop a historical, community farm in this same area. As the neighborhood proposal took shape and was formally submitted to the City, the disparity of interests in this area of the park became apparent.

The conflict raised a number of issues. One issue was that no plan existed for Skinner Butte Park, and, therefore, no publicly adopted criteria to guide a decision. In essence, there was no reasonable way to gauge the public support or public need between these two, mutually exclusive proposals. Furthermore, the community farm versus ball field issue was just one of many burgeoning issues and proposals related to Skinner Butte Park that would otherwise need to be evaluated and decided on an individual basis. Secondly, either proposal would be a significant, long-term commitment of a large area of public open space in a key metropolitan park. It was determined, therefore, that a decision should not be made on the basis of individual need or case arguments alone. It must be brought to the public and

This is the first comprehensive plan for the park

Multiple interests require a sound decision-making framework

discussed in a more comprehensive way in the context of the entire park. The forum must also be appropriately far-reaching to include opinions from the entire community.

Finally, how would the bond measure funding be spent with no clear rationale for priorities in the park? A thorough public process would help direct the funding to where it was needed most, and to align improvements as closely as possible with current public values as they apply to Skinner Butte Park.

Grant Funding

As the debate over the development of the west end of the park illustrates, a park vision based on community consensus and support not only reduces conflict but allows a much more proactive approach to park management strategies and improvements that directly benefit the community. Without such a vision, plans may be put on hold and management strategies suspended indefinitely amid disagreement.

Not surprisingly, this is also true for funding sources. Once a master plan is established that is demonstrably supported by the community, community leaders, committee members and funding agencies feel more confident in backing a particular proposal. Not only are projects and management strategies easier to support, but a master plan is often a basic requirement for funding eligibility. This can mean the support of the public for local funding options such as bond measures, as well as the support of other federal, state and private sources. Communities that have a demonstrated need and have a demonstrated vision are in a better position to take advantage of these resources. To make the investment now in reaching out to the public and collaboratively developing a vision for the park's future has the potential to pay dividends.

“A great park deserves a great plan, and the community deserves both.” -RAH



Wrecked car bodies reinforce the river bank near the I-105 bridge

What Purpose Does the Master Plan Serve?

There are a variety of goals that the process of developing a master plan seeks to achieve. The following list describes in detail some of the most important of these goals.

Goal 1: Create a long-term vision to guide decisions and management

Clearly, a key purpose of the master planning process is to provide a forum for the discussion of long-term decisions regarding management and improvement of the park. The process not only focuses on discussion of current needs, but reaches up to 20 years ahead to plan for long-term change and future needs. The master planning process, therefore, is a way to collaboratively create a vision of how the park should ideally look and function over the next generation.

Goal 2: Catalog and prioritize infrastructure improvement needs for future

Over time, a large and diverse park will require the input of dozens of different individuals and organizations with widely varying interests. The master planning process provides a forum to research, discuss and list these interests and needs, from maintenance to historic interpretation, in one central document that can be used as a guide, marketing tool and work plan. Also, as an overlay of community values, the process of setting priorities helps focus



Children playing in Skinner Butte Park

energy and resources on the most important projects, and outlines a logical sequence of future steps towards realization of the overall vision.

Goal 3: Involve the public and raise awareness of this valuable resource

With the public involvement tools available, a key goal of the master planning process is to engage the community in a detailed discussion of the park. To get people involved with the park, to ask them to take a close, hard look, to see the potential, and then to collectively record what they saw, is not simply a goal of the process, it is the process. Raising awareness carries a number of benefits for Skinner Butte Park and parks in general. Here are just a few of these benefits:

- ▶ Increasing positive, legitimate park use
- ▶ Increasing the pool of volunteer resources
- ▶ Increasing overall awareness of parks and public land resources

- ▶ Inspiring public discussion of general park issues and how to approach them
- ▶ Inspiring donations or uncovering other funding opportunities through networking
- ▶ Building a stronger community by bringing diverse segments of the community together over a common theme

Raising awareness of the park carries a number of benefits for the park and the community

Goal 4: Uncover issues and adopt policies to address them

In the course of engaging the public and assessing their values, current issues are uncovered. The master plan is an opportunity to discuss these issues in detail, and it affords a means of developing and adopting policies that are able to address them in the most sensitive and informed way. It creates opportunities for face-to-face discussions with stakeholder groups, and at the same time allows the meaningful incorporation of the opinions of the broader community.

Goal 5: Realign mission of parks to match needs and values of the community

Ideally, parks reflect the character of the surrounding neighborhood and community. Keeping step with the needs and values of the people that shape that character cannot be done without engaging the community in a sincere and proactive manner. Although the values of the community as a whole can often be seen as a thread throughout the parks system, it is a challenge to assess the overall values of the entire community around a particular park. This is especially true for a resource as unique and diverse as Skinner Butte Park. Therefore, an up-to-date measure of the community's needs and values is needed to incorporate them directly into the mission of the park. It provides clear steps for bringing people's overall values and park values into alignment.

**A clear plan opens
the door for many
funding opportunities**

How will the master plan be used?

The master plan document itself is intended to serve a number of functions. These are some of the most important of these functions:

- Handbook for implementing an updated vision for the park
- Work plan for the prioritized improvements
- Criteria for specific work plan projects
- Policy framework for decisions affecting the park
- Resource management strategy
- Direction for bond measure funding
- Planning framework to pursue other funding
- Tool to raise public awareness

How long is the master plan valid?

The master plan represents a vision for the park over the next generation, or approximately 20 years. The objective is that this vision will be substantially realized at some point within that time period. In a more pragmatic sense, the plan will remain valid as long as its policies remain consistent with the needs and values of the public. As attitudes shift, certain aspects of the plan may come to the forefront, and other aspects may become less important.

Local residents overlook the Willamette River and Whiteaker area from the west end of Skinner Butte circa 1890. Note the cluster of family farms along the river's edge.



Master Plan Methodology

Approach

The master planning process for Skinner Butte Park involved careful integration of research and public involvement to develop a thorough, objective plan firmly rooted in current, broad-base community values. Dozens of stakeholder groups and individuals were involved in its development at every level through a format aimed at involvement on a number of levels to reflect a cross-section of the community that the park serves.

Research

Extensive research was carried out for historical aspects and current conditions of the park. City archives, the Lane County Historical Society, the University of Oregon Landscape Architecture Department, oral histories, interviews, and on-site evaluations contributed to the body of information contained in this master plan.

"The columns" public climbing area



Public Workshops

City of Eugene Parks Planning staff hosted a series of three public workshops at the Campbell Senior Center between April 2000 and June 2001, drawing over 120 participants. The first workshop was an all-day event including a presentation of the history and current status of Skinner Butte Park, a walking tour and evaluation, and a group discussion of issues and opportunities within the park. The second workshop focused on reviewing a draft vision statement, policy goals and strategies for the master plan, and two rounds of group discussions to review concept diagrams of key issues and opportunities (see Figure 1). The third workshop involved general discussion of the draft master plan drawing, a revised vision statement and goals, and a comprehensive list of master plan strategies and actions. Participants at the third workshop also helped set priorities for project implementation.

Survey and Comment Stations

As the first step in seeking the broad-base community input required for the planning of a metropolitan park, Advanced Marketing Research, Inc. was hired to implement and analyze a citywide, random-sample survey on general park issues and questions directly related to Skinner Butte Park. With 2,500 forms mailed, the survey received a good response, and the demographics of the respondents were determined to be a good reflection of the broader Eugene community. Information gathered from this survey helped inform the planning process, and was also presented for discussion at the second public workshop (see Summary of Citywide Survey Results on facing page).

The second step in broad-base community outreach involved the placement of five self-service comment stations with large, color displays of the Draft Master Plan drawing in prominent public locations around the city. These locations included the downtown LTD bus station, the 5th Street Market, Amazon Community Center, Sheldon Community Center and Echo Hollow Pool. A total of 92 comment sheets

(continued on Page 8)



Figure 1: Sample Concept Diagram

This is a sample of a concept diagram used for discussion and brainstorming at the second public workshop. This diagram illustrates ideas and issues raised at the first workshop dealing with one key aspect of the park: natural areas and habitat restoration.



Survey Says . . . Summary of Citywide Survey Results

General

- ▶ Most people list leisure and relaxation as their main reason for visiting Skinner Butte Park, followed by exercise and nature.
- ▶ The most frequently used amenities in Skinner Butte Park are the bike path, parking areas, and the butte viewpoint.
- ▶ The playground is used by nearly half of all visitors to Skinner Butte Park.
- ▶ Amenities that people feel would most improve the experience in Skinner Butte Park are drinking fountains, walking trails and natural areas.
- ▶ Almost everyone feels it is important to convey local history in Skinner Butte Park.

Circulation and Access

- ▶ Most people arrive at Skinner Butte Park by car.
- ▶ About 90% of the respondents listed the bike path as their most frequently visited area of the park.
- ▶ Most people thought that High Street should be the main entrance to the park.
- ▶ Most people support opening the connection under I-105 to Owen Rose Garden for bikes and pedestrians.

Natural Areas

- ▶ Most people feel that Eugene's parks currently have a good balance between natural resources and recreation.
- ▶ People's highest priority for improvement efforts focused on protecting and enhancing natural areas and river bank areas.
- ▶ Eugene residents support river bank stabilization and habitat improvements even if it means removing portions of lawn areas, but less so if it means removing mature trees and replacing them with new ones.
- ▶ Most residents favor a moderate approach to balancing preservation of views from the top of the butte with preservation of existing trees, whereby some thinning and tree removal to preserve or partially restore views would be acceptable.

Eugene Parks are currently well balanced between recreation and natural areas

were filled out and deposited in comment boxes at all locations. On a scale of one to ten, participants were encouraged to rate their support for the master plan (10 = high support, 1 = low support). The average level of support for the Draft Master Plan among respondents was 8.5 out of 10. Respondents were also asked whether or not they felt the draft master plan met their needs. Over 80% of the respondents replied YES, the draft master plan met their needs.

Advertisement

Advertisement for public involvement efforts included direct-mail postcard invitations to over 3000 neighbors, individuals and stakeholder organizations, display ads in the Register-Guard and Eugene Weekly, news releases, personal contact and interviews with over 50 stakeholder organizations and individuals, and listing on the City public meetings

calendar. Many steps of the process were covered by local newspapers, television stations and radio stations. A special web page was also created on the City of Eugene web site to allow 24-hour access to information related to the planning process (see www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/).

Focus

The Skinner Butte Park Master Plan takes a broad focus to cover all areas, aspects and uses of the park comprehensively. It also aspires to reveal and express the unique attributes of the park, meaning those that hold the most value for the community and park system, and keep them in mind throughout the process. In essence, the focus of this plan is to seek out and describe common themes that unify the park experience, as well as its different needs, and outline their future in a balanced way.

(continued on next page)

Outreach efforts sought opinions from a broad cross section of the entire community

He said, She said . . . Comment Station Highlights

- ▶ A total of 92 comment sheets were filled out and deposited in comment boxes at five different locations around Eugene. Several comment sheets were mailed to city staff.
- ▶ **The average level of support for the draft master plan was 8.5 out of 10**
- ▶ **Over 80% of the respondents said YES , the draft master plan meets their needs**
- ▶ The top three priorities listed by respondents for spending current Parks and Open Space bond measure funding were:
 - 1) Natural area restoration
 - 2) Riverbank interpretive trail
 - 3) Butte trail system



Despite its age, the playground at Skinner Butte Park is still a popular destination. Over half of park visitors report using this facility.

There are four particular areas that generally summarize the focus of discussion: history, natural resources, park amenities and site circulation. Most elements of the master plan will deal with on one or more of these areas. It is in their combination, however, that they are most valuable, and should be considered.

Further Development

One element of the master plan is a set of criteria to guide more detailed planning efforts. The implication is that these efforts will refine the master plan in the scope of its findings and recommendations. The master plan, therefore, will serve as the planning umbrella for these refinements and provide the policy framework for their execution.

Scope

File documents show widely varying definitions of Skinner Butte Park. In most documents, one or more elements of the park have either been omitted or have since changed through property acquisition or similar actions. To clarify this for the current master planning effort, the park area shall be defined henceforth as follows:

Skinner Butte Park encompasses all city-owned park property abutting the south bank of the Willamette River from the Ferry Street Bridge extending west to the I-105 bridge, and extending from the banks of

the Willamette River southward to Cheshire Avenue, Second Avenue, the 3rd/4th Connector, or to the boundary of residential and/or commercial property.

Specific elements contained within the scope of the plan

Campbell Senior Center, Lamb Cottage, the residential dwelling occupied by Child Care, Inc., the “columns” climbing area, and other facilities contained within the park and serving a park, recreation or open space function are contained within the scope of the master plan.

Special relationships

The master plan recognizes certain features that are integral to the park, but currently serve a non-park specific purpose, are guided by different sets of goals, and/or are under separate management. Recommendations or accommodations may be made for these features in the master plan, but must be applied through a collaborative effort with other City departments or external organizations. These features include the 1926 EWEB-owned reservoir, the communications tower, the Shelton-McMurphy-Johnson house and property, and the Lincoln Yard area (see Map 2: Site Features).

Skinner Butte Park, as defined for this plan, is about 100 acres in size and includes many special features.

Master Plan Highlights

Overview

The following are some highlights of the master plan. The issues, vision, goals and strategies form the framework within which the more detailed Management Plans and Implementation Plan are created. These sections are discussed in Chapter 6: Skinner Butte Park Master Plan.

Issues

One of the key objectives of the first workshop was to explore issues facing Skinner Butte Park. The following list highlights the most commonly mentioned and critical of these issues. The list has been updated and revised as research and broader public input helped direct the process. The planning process was aimed at addressing these specific issues, which helped set the tone for discussions and research leading to master plan recommendations.



The few small areas of native upland prairie that remain on Skinner Butte are rapidly disappearing

Issues in Skinner Butte Park

Issue #1: The mission and role of the park is unclear.

Issue #2: The park’s rich natural and cultural history has tremendous potential but is poorly represented and interpreted.

Issue #3: Active management of natural areas is needed.

Issue #4: Park amenities are insufficient and out-dated.

Issue #5: The butte embodies multiple unique values.

Issue #6: The Willamette River is a key component of the park.

Issue #7: A connection from the butte to downtown is of key importance, but does not currently exist.

Issue #8: Access and circulation are adequate, but could be improved.

Issues are described in greater detail in Chapter 5

Vision Statement

The vision statement sets the bar for the master plan

The Skinner Butte Park vision statement responds to the issues and desires generated at the first public workshop. It is a long-term picture of how the park should look and function. A draft vision statement was presented at the second workshop and amended to become more inclusive and

respond to a desire for emphasis in certain areas. The goals, strategies and actions listed hereafter are all tools to realize this vision.

As the birthplace of Eugene, and as a unique landmark of geography, history and ecology, Skinner Butte Park plays a vital role at the heart of our community. The care and stewardship of this public resource shall be a top priority, with a focus on creating a “crown jewel” of Eugene’s parks. Skinner Butte Park will foster civic pride and a citywide sense of community, and will provide a diverse blend of recreational and educational opportunities for everyone. This shall be accomplished by emphasizing and interpreting its rich cultural history and unique geography, including the butte and the Willamette River; by building a stronger connection to downtown; by revitalizing its core park facilities and, above all; by protecting and enhancing its valuable native habitats for the enjoyment of future generations.



Spencer Butte as seen from Skinner Butte overlook

The vision statement is founded strongly in public values, as shown in the following sampling of visionary quotes from the Skinner Butte Park Workshop #1 Report:

- “Improved recreational opportunities for the large community.”
- “It gives us a sense of place, a landmark. A sense of time . . .”
- “. . . create on the butte a most enjoyable site for citizens and guests to visit, a “crown jewel” of Eugene.
- “A connection from city to river, and a connection with our past . . .”
- “. . . a natural, native, wildlife and plant space.”
- “As a person from the broader community, I’ve enjoyed this park because of its size, proximity to the river, capacity to accommodate large picnics, large turf areas for a variety of play, natural areas, views from the top, botanical diversity, ability to accommodate special events that are not appropriate for other parks.”
- “. . . bring back its natural beauty - the Kalapuya’s vision, the Skinners, the immigrants, the farm . . .”
- “As an environment of green space, urban forest, natural waterway - provides a major urban area with a very necessary non-urban environment - an area where the entire community can stay in touch with natural beauty and potentially agricultural aspects which are necessary to our lives.”
- “As a site for recreating. As a site for education.”

Goals

The following goals are adapted from research, interviews and responses at public workshops for the Skinner Butte Master plan. These goals set the stage for specific ways of achieving the vision presented in the vision statement. They can also be called “policy goals” in that they affect park improvement, maintenance and programming policies, as well as how future ideas for what to do with the park will be evaluated.



View southeast towards the Willamette River ca. 1900. Skinner Butte has been a popular destination for generations, and is home to a rich cultural heritage.

Goals for Skinner Butte Park

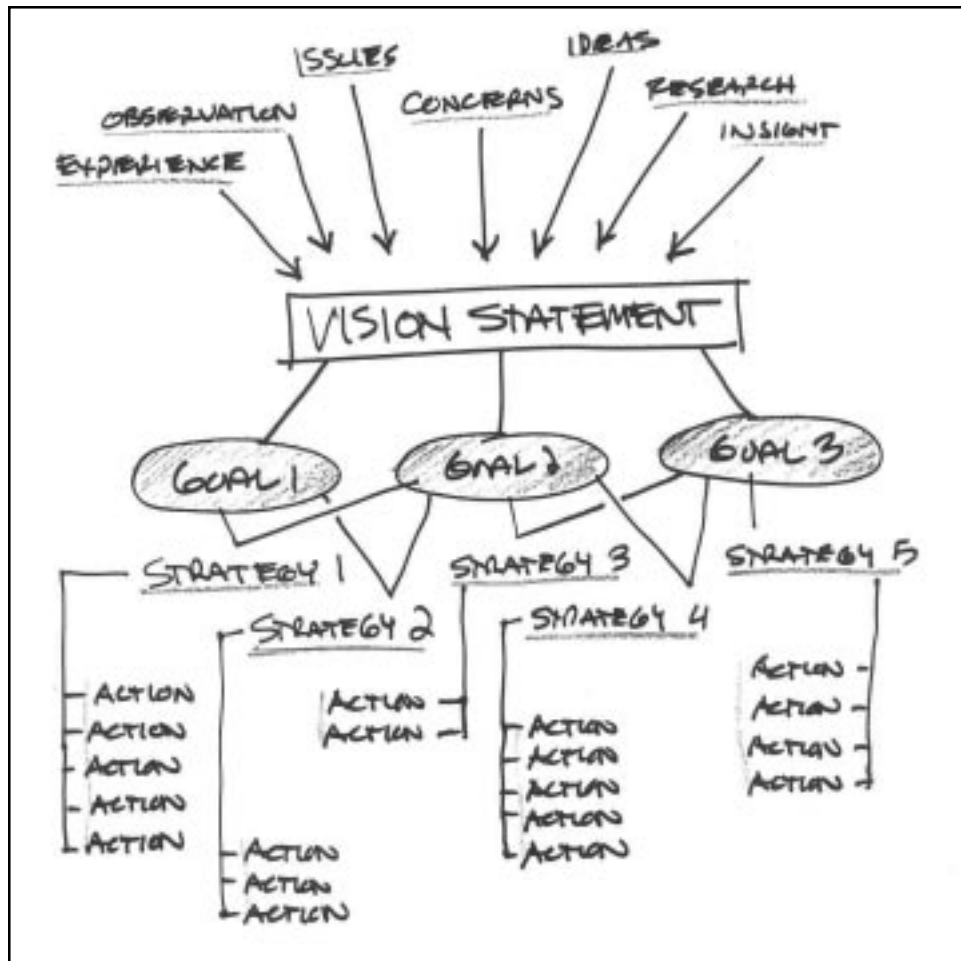
1. **Preserve, enhance and recognize Skinner Butte Park’s rich natural and cultural history as a predominant theme, and promote this through diverse interpretive and educational opportunities.**
2. **Protect, repair and restore the health and viability of diverse habitat types in Skinner Butte Park by creatively managing valuable natural resources and successional processes.**
3. **Improve and maintain Skinner Butte Park as a key, high-quality civic destination for private, public, community and neighborhood social events, activities and individual recreation.**
4. **Recognize the Willamette River and the river corridor as a key component of Skinner Butte Park, and to protect, repair and restore this resource while integrating a balance of recreational access and use.**
5. **Emphasize and encourage bicycle and pedestrian transportation while providing for clear, convenient and adequate disabled access and vehicular use within Skinner Butte Park .**
6. **Recognize and strengthen Skinner Butte Park’s connection with downtown and adjacent neighborhoods.**

Setting clear goals is a necessary part of realizing a vision

Workshop #1,
discussion, idea gathering,
research

Workshop #2,
evaluation, discussion,
research, design

Workshop #3,
ideas gathered from all
public involvement and
research efforts, details
contained in
implementation plan



The above diagram, presented at the second public workshop, describes the relationship between different elements of the master plan and planning process



Around 50 participants gathered to discuss the park at the first public workshop.

Strategies

The following section describes specific strategies, or ways of achieving the master planning goals for Skinner Butte Park. These strategies begin to chart the way, step by step, towards realizing the overall

vision for the park. The **Implementation Plan** (see chapter 5) provides more detailed criteria and specific, prioritized actions related to the strategies listed here.

Skinner Butte Master Plan Strategies

1. Strategy: Establish an interpretive, education and preservation program for cultural history and natural history/ecology.

- 1.1 NATURAL HISTORY: Increase public awareness and stewardship of natural resources, natural history and restoration projects through interpretation and education.
- 1.2 SETTLEMENT AND MODERN HISTORY: Expand public awareness of local cultural history through interpretation and historic preservation.
- 1.3 HISTORIC VIEWS: Preserve, protect and restore historic views.
- 1.4 NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE: Incorporate elements in Skinner Butte Park that highlight the role of Native Americans in the region.
- 1.5 INTERPRETIVE CENTER: Develop an interpretive center

2. Strategy: Implement a Habitat Management Plan for Skinner Butte Park.

- 2.1 HABITAT INVENTORY: Continue research of natural resources within the park to better inform natural resource planning, restoration and management.
- 2.2 NATURAL SYSTEMS: Recognize and allow for the natural dynamics of diverse ecosystem types.

- 2.3 EROSION CONTROL: Control river bank erosion to allow for seasonal flooding and improve the riparian ecosystem.
- 2.4 ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS: Identify opportunities for increasing ecosystem functions for the park as a whole.
- 2.5 INVASIVE SPECIES: Remove and control invasive plant species throughout the park.
- 2.6 HABITAT MANAGEMENT: Manage various areas of the park for the following habitat types: conifer forest, river/riparian, oak savanna, upland prairie and wet prairie.
- 2.7 HABITAT RESTORATION: Restore certain areas of the park to a higher habitat value.

3. Strategy: Create management units to guide implementation strategies.

4. Strategy: Redevelop and maintain key park and recreational facilities

- 4.1 SKINNER BUTTE SUMMIT: Redevelop the top of the butte in a manner that consistent with a high-quality community focal point that reflects the park's historic context.
- 4.2 CORE EVENT AREA: Improve park facilities to accommodate and promote a core event area for small and large group social activities such as organized picnics, weddings, festivals, etc.

Skinner Butte Master Plan Strategies

Master Plan strategies are fleshed out by a list of prioritized actions in the Implementation Plan (see Chapter 5)

- 4.3 PLAYGROUND: Fundamentally redevelop the existing playground as a citywide attraction
- 4.4 WEST END: Redevelop the west end of the park for education, interpretation and recreational use in keeping with the character and unique aspects of the park.
- 4.5 LAMB COTTAGE: Revitalize Lamb Cottage and surrounding area to support group events and provide an anchor for the Skinner Butte Promenade.
- 4.6 OPEN SPACE: Designate adequate open space within the park
- 4.7 LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION: Address the general condition, maintenance and development of landscape areas throughout the park.
- 4.8 LIGHTING: Provide for adequate lighting in the park.
- 4.9 RESTROOMS: Provide adequate sanitary facilities in the park.
- 4.10 COLUMNS: Improve and maintain the columns as a public climbing area.
- 4.11 MEMORIALS: Carefully evaluate the introduction of new personal or public memorials within Skinner Butte Park
- 4.12 INTRUSIONS: Identify and mitigate physical intrusions impacting recreation and aesthetic values within the park.
5. **Strategy: Develop and apply design standards for all built facilities and infrastructure that reflects and emphasizes the park's historic context.**
6. **Strategy: Improve and maintain pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic circulation patterns to emphasize alternative transportation, accessibility and safety.**
- 6.1 SKINNER BUTTE PROMENADE: Explore the development of a clear and convenient pedestrian promenade from downtown via the summit of Skinner Butte and Lamb Cottage to the Willamette River.
- 6.2 TRAIL SYSTEM: Construct a clear trail system for the butte and the river corridor.
- 6.3 EMPHASIZE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION: Emphasize and encourage alternative transportation modes within the park, as well as to and from the park.
- 6.4 PARKING MODIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT: Maximize use of existing paved areas while minimizing construction of new parking.
- 6.5. CHESHIRE AVENUE MODIFICATIONS: Modify existing street to support key park values.
- 6.6. MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIONS: Enhance multi-modal entrance areas and connect them visually to downtown and adjacent neighborhoods.
- 6.7 I-105 UNDERPASS: Redevelop this area for pedestrian and bicycle access between the west Whiteaker neighborhood, Owen Rose Garden and Skinner Butte Park.
- 6.8 DISABLED ACCESS: Work towards ADA-compliant access to all key park facilities.
- 6.9 EQUESTRIAN ACCESS: Consider access by horses as a unique mode of transportation reflecting and promoting the park's unique historic values
7. **Strategy: Implement measures to improve public safety within Skinner Butte Park.**
8. **Strategy: Facilitate follow-through and continuity of master plan goals.**

Priorities

The Parks and Open Space bond measure allocated \$300,000 for improvements to Skinner Butte Park. Through the long-term, comprehensive scope of the master plan, many more projects have been identified than this funding will cover. Although a portion of the bond measure funding has been allocated to support the master planning process, priorities needed to be identified for the balance of the available funding. Several criteria were considered in setting these priorities.

Community Input

The community was invited to comment on general funding priorities at the draft master plan displays placed at various locations around town for a period of two weeks (see Master Plan Methodology, this chapter). Immediately following the public displays, an exercise at the end of the third public workshop also encouraged meeting participants to identify their top funding priorities from a detailed list of projects.

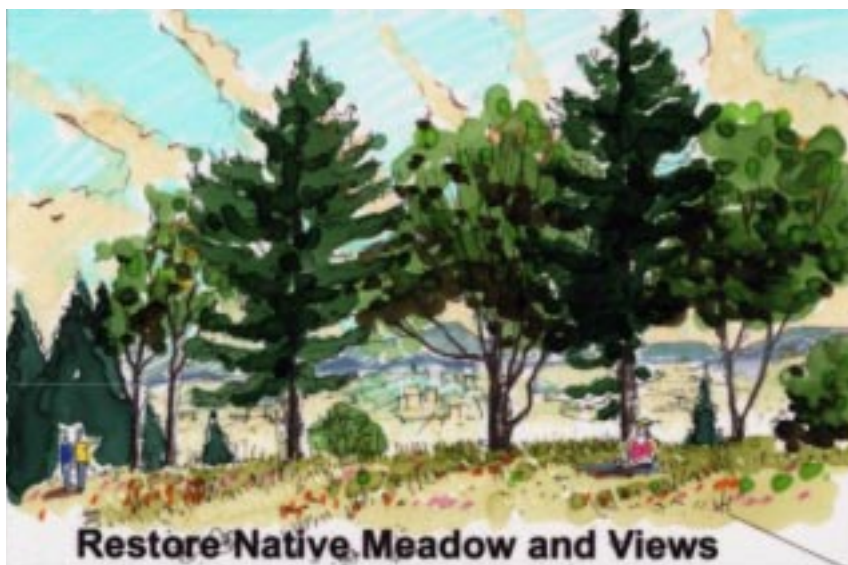
Other Factors

There may be a logical sequence of construction that influences whether or not a project can be completed. Similarly, many projects need a much higher level of funding than the Parks and Open Space bond measure provides, and these projects become candidates for future funding opportunities. Smaller projects that are related to or dependent on these projects, therefore, are also contingent on securing future funding. Projects that are better suited to volunteer efforts have also been identified. In some cases, projects that can be supported with a relatively small capital investment, but generate a relatively large amount of interest and stewardship in the park, are seen as opportunities to extend current funding. Opportunities may exist to leverage existing funding through partnerships with other organizations or programs, such as the City's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program. As these opportunities are identified, certain projects may become a higher priority to take advantage of the additional funding available through partnerships.

The community was asked to help set priorities for how to spend current funding



Restoring of river bank habitat, and developing an interpretive hiking trail are top priorities for Parks and Open Space bond measure funding



Another high priority for Parks and Open Space bond measure funding is the restoration of native upland prairie and preservation of significant views from Skinner Butte.



Large projects like the Skinner Butte Promenade, although a high priority and very important for the function of the park and downtown Eugene, will need additional funding sources.

Top Ten Priorities for Skinner Butte Park

The Implementation Plan portion of the Skinner Butte Park Master Plan (see Chapter 6, Implementation Plan) contains a complete listing of proposed project priorities. The following are the top ten priorities to be funded by the 1998 Parks and Open Space bond measure (Measure 20-03).

1. Initiate and execute an in-depth habitat inventory study for the butte and the river habitats and connections.
2. Develop and implement a control plan to remove targeted invasive plant species, and develop a general action plan for removal of all invasive species
3. Redevelop the trail system on Skinner Butte
4. Create a River-Bottom Interpretive Trail
5. Convert certain mixed successional shrub and forest areas on the south, east and west slopes of the butte to native upland prairie
6. Convert certain areas of lawn to native wet prairie, where possible, to serve as potential water quality enhancement or infiltration areas
7. Provide irrigation to the historic community farm site
8. Develop viewshed management parameters and restore viewshed
9. Design and install interpretive signage for cultural history, including the story of the Kalapuya
10. Design and install interpretive signage for natural history